

Senators and Representatives,

I, as all law abiding gun owners am deeply saddened by the massacre in Newtown. However, this terrible act does not reflect on those of us who exercise our God given Constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms. Therefore, most of the laws being proposed will not deter criminals from killing innocent people in the future, they will only affect the law abiding citizen. We do not deserve to pay the price for evil which you cannot legislate away. We follow the laws, and pay our taxes and we are not the villain. Everyone wants to do something to give meaning to the senseless loss of life in Newtown. New laws will not do this. We have thousands of gun laws already, and the government refuses to prosecute most of those who break them. Even those who are prosecuted are let out of prison early. The laws that particularly concern me are:

HB 5112 which would make pistol permit holder's names and addresses publicly available. This is dangerous and ineffectual. If a parent is worried about their kid's friend's parents owning firearms, they should get to know them enough to ask them the question.

HB 5268 which would require firearm owners maintain liability insurance and establish a tax on ammunition. This would not prevent crime in any way. This is just a way to deter some people from owning firearms. The tax only takes responsibility for costs of gun violence away from criminals where it belongs and puts it on law abiding citizens.

HB 5949 would limit magazine capacity to ten rounds. Most of the firearms I own have standard factory magazines with capacities greater than ten rounds. A ban would make many legal firearms useless. Criminals will not turn in their magazines, so the only people penalized by this are law abiding citizens, and those in the state who manufacture magazines.

HB 5654 which concerns firearm owners who give mentally unstable people access to their firearms. We already have laws which cover this.

HB 5934 commissions a study about outfitting firearms with biometric reading devices. This is not the way to prevent mass murderers. Criminals would just defeat the technology. It would be expensive, and frankly most firearm owner wouldn't want to alter what already works.

HB 5935 This bill proposes so many different things, the rules for writing a bill shouldn't allow it. Mental health screening for firearm purchases. I believe mental health is being covered by another committee so I will pass that issue. It would force ranges to provide secure storage for customer's firearms as well as private citizens to have secure storage. Private citizens are already required by law to store their firearms securely. The liability involved in forcing ranges to store customers' personal property would be staggering. The bill would prohibit magazines larger than 7 rounds. This would do nothing to prevent crime. The bill would establish a task force to define the 2nd Amendment. This has been done by the Supreme Court of the United States. The bill would require a background check to buy ammunition. This would be an inconvenience to law abiding citizens, and would not reduce crime in any way. A criminal would just steal ammunition. The instant background check system is

very overburdened as it is. The time required to get an authorization number to make a sale has tripled in the last year, and can actually get into hours. The bill would prohibit a person from purchasing a firearm if they had been convicted of cruelty to animals. This is the only part of this bill that I could support. Honestly, I doubt there would be many people affected.

HB 5937 would require background checks at gun shows. CT already has some of the strictest gun laws in the country. We do not have straw buyers making purchases in the parking lots of gun shows. CT gun shows have law enforcement present and reputable dealers. This will not prevent crime.

HB 5950 would ban magazines greater than 10 rounds. The bill would change the definition of assault weapon, ultimately making any semi automatic rifle that uses a magazine illegal. This would affect the bulk of the rifles citizens own. This would not prevent any crime. The bill would require a permit to purchase ammunition, and prohibit Internet sales. Criminals would just steal the ammunition they want. The gun owners who purchase online to save money should not be penalized. CT has a limited number of gun stores, and currently they are out of product most of the time. This bill would require registration of all firearms and require biennial renewal. CT State Police already get a record of every gun purchased from a dealer. This would inundate an already busy agency. Also, it would unnecessarily burden law abiding gun owners. Criminals would not register their guns. Law abiding gun owners would incur costs and time spent and it would not prevent any crimes.

SB 506 would require background checks on private sales, including to family members. This is illogical because you know the background of your relatives. Most people who make private sales require a permit and check it before the sale is done. To require an electronic records check will unnecessarily cost them money. You could accomplish the same thing by requiring a seller check a permit before making a sale.

In closing, the Constitution and Bill of Rights are not something to be toyed with. Many Americans died to protect those rights. I am just as outraged by what happened in Newtown as you are. But infringing on my rights as a law abiding gun owner will not prevent a future madman from doing evil. What will prevent crimes? Bring back the death penalty. Pass a Castle Doctrine. Get rid of early release, time off for good behavior, and parole. Instead of closing mental health institutions, expand them. Force drug manufacturers to prove that psychiatric drugs will not cause people to kill or be violent. Thank you for your attention.

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